Route 12 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

September 28, 1976

Mr. Herbert S. Schlosser
President
National Broadcasting Company
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Schlosser:

I regret very much that neither you nor anyone speaking for you has responded to my certified letter of Septmeber 9. I did write Abby Mann separately, also without response.

So you can be without reasonable doubt of the accuracy of my representations to you, I enclose copies of two copyrighted Newsday stories. That either as a corporation or as a news agency NBC would engage in such overt thievery is a shock to me. That it remains silent after notification is truly a disappointment.
Mr. Payne's stories are his own work. They began with me and my work, which he carried further with exemplary professionalism and responsibility. Neither he nor Newsday made any misuses, as I'd like you to understand. Quite the contrary . I asked them to do what they did and I'm more than pleased with the professionalism and responsibility. I have made available to them more than they used.

I think you have done worse than steal. Your people have twisted all of this terribly and irrationally and have caused what I do hope gives you some misgivings. You have been responsible for the most serious and I'm confident entirely baseless accusations against the FBI and the late J. Edgar Hoover. If this is the track record of those scoundrels with whom you are in a relationship, in no sense does it serve any decent national interest. It has already had a corrupting influence on the Congress.

Do not misunderstand me. While in the field in which I specialize I believe I am the severest responsible critic of the federal intelligence agencies, I do not believe either is guilty of the Original Sin. If they bear responsibility for what they have done - and I do seek to effectuate rectification - they bear all the blame that can be placed on them with fairness. I am not their apologist in any sense. I have probably made more use of the Freedom of Information Act than anyone else and most of this has been against them. I have the FBI in court in two current cases. Response to interrogatories in a third are overdue from the CIA.

If I would prefer to live in a world in which such agencies were not necessary, I do regard them as necessary and believe there is no practical alternative to reform, to ending all the abuses possible.

NBC is now in the position of having been responsible for new and from my own extensive work I'm certain false charges that the FBI and Hoover were involved in the actual killing of Dr. King.

I heard only part of the NBC radio news broadcast in which it took full and personal credit for this, even though NBC News knew in advance of that broadcast that this was false. It did check with me a day earlier.

There are many factors and interests now involved. I believe your interest in particular is served by providing me with a dub of what was aired, with the outtakes. I'm not trying to entrap you in this. So you can have assurances, I would suggest that

you have someone in your employ deliver them, play them to me first and then tape-record what I say in response.

I strongly encourage you against becoming like a snake who, having begun to swallow, can't do anything else. You have plenty of time.

You have been dealing with wretched people. I can understand that perhaps Abby Mann became a friend of Mark Lane's when Mark was so successfully promoting himself. He is a glib, persuasive man who is no investigator and has done no original work of substance. His career of plagiarism begins to my knowledge with his first book. His associates, who are now yours, have been trying to steal my work for a long time. They tried to entice me into a meaningless contract on it. When I would not sign away all my rights, they then undertook to steal it. I have full records.

I do hope you will not continue silent. I also hope you will come to see that, in addition to my interests, those of the country and NBC are also involved. Especially if NBC is the principal in the so-called documentary I've heard that Mr. Mann has prepared in collaboration with Lane.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg